

over the Civil Rights Act of 1991. He quoted to us from Richard Wright's book, "Native Son" to remind us of the cost of this Nation's terrible legacy of discrimination. "It's like living in a jail," said one of the characters, a young African-American boy. "Half the time I feel I'm on the outside of the world peeping in through a knothole in the fence."

That day BILL COHEN reminded us how racism eats away at the human spirit and turns hope to despair. His willingness to stand firm against a storm of partisan pressure ensured that all Americans would take one more step toward a world free of discrimination.

BILL COHEN has shown that willingness in other key situations, too. As a young Representative in 1974, he was one of few members who crossed party lines to hold the President accountable for his actions, and he was the sole Republican vote against last year's Republican budget reconciliation package.

He has also been a leader in terms of bipartisan initiatives, especially in the area of defense, where he has developed special expertise. Throughout his career, he has been a strong supporter of important arms control measures and has worked to build bipartisan coalitions to implement them.

As he leaves us after nearly 25 years, I think it is only fitting to say farewell to one of our most literary Senators with an appropriate quotation. It was John Steinbeck who wrote in his novel "East of Eden" that a successful person was one, "whose effective life was devoted to making men brave and dignified and good in a time when they were poor and frightened and when ugly forces were loose in the world to utilize their fears."

BILL COHEN is indeed a successful person.

We wish him great success in his future. We hope that he returns many times for he has many friends here on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STERLING FOREST

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, within the last hour or so I have had several calls in my office from various media, including the New York Times, asking for comments on why the Senator from Alaska would insist on killing the passage of the Sterling Forest—that is that issue that affects both New Jersey and New York, with a purchase of private lands with Federal funds—by insisting that my Tongass

provision prevail? And how could I possibly take such an action and stop this process?

First of all, I think it is important for the Record to note the circumstances, as I understand them, that occurred in the House among the leadership at approximately 6:30 this morning, or thereabouts, because I think it reflects on the process around here. Some of it does need some airing. At that time, it was the intent of the leadership on the House side to include in the CR, to accommodate Senator HATFIELD and his contribution to this body, the so-called Mount Hood Parks package, and other incidental considerations.

Then, there was a communication from the White House that there should be an accommodation on another issue as well, and that was the San Francisco Bay cleanup proposal, a proposal that is worthy, a proposal that is in the omnibus parks bill, as well as the Sterling Forest, which is in that bill, which I support.

Now, there was no effort in that dialog to suggest that the San Francisco Bay was added anymore than to complement the accommodation on Mount Hood; and to suggest that we were in some way responsible for removing Sterling Forest from that legislative structure is absolutely incorrect and misleading, to say the least. Sterling Forest was subject to a point of order in the House under a blue line, for technical reasons, and that was of no concern to this body.

So, I would say to my colleagues, as some begin to point the finger of blame, that while it had been understood that the leadership was going to attempt to accommodate the Sterling Forest, initially, to complement the Mount Hood and Hatfield package, that the Tongass matter did not enter into that consideration under any terms or circumstances. And if the leadership and those attending that meeting saw fit to remove the Sterling Forest from that deliberation, that was entirely their own accord. They may have felt it may have been more politically expedient to add the San Francisco Bay cleanup to the CR, rather than the Sterling Forest. I guess it is fair to say that is beyond my pay grade.

But I want the RECORD to reflect that, as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we stand ready to continue a dialog on the 126 sections that are in the parks-Pre-sidio package. We have indicated a willingness to work with the administration, by letter which was sent down there last night.

So that we can all understand the current posture, it is my understanding that in the CR, there will be two items now. There will be the Mount Hood and the San Francisco Bay cleanup as a consequence of the leadership action taken in the House. There will not be the Sterling Forest, there will not be the Tongass, there will not be the Utah Snow Basin, nor the other 123 very im-

portant items that we reported out of our committee.

So, if any of the House Members are suggesting that the chairman has stood in the way of trying to pass this omnibus legislation, the record should reflect otherwise and should reflect specifically that my initial interest was a 15-year extension for the Ketchikan sawmill, which I withdrew after the administration threatened to veto that. That was a pretty significant sacrifice, but nevertheless, it was made.

I think that should provide an adequate explanation for those who suggest that somehow we stood in the way of the leadership action, in moving on the CR accompanying the Mount Hood package, that we stood in the way of the Sterling Forest. We did not.

I thank the Chair. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR MARK HATFIELD

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, in the next day or two, we will be closing the 104th Congress. One of the things we will be doing is saying farewell to some of our colleagues who have served this institution and served our country so well.

One of the colleagues I would like to recognize today who I have the greatest respect for is Senator HATFIELD who served this body and our country so well for the last 30 years in the U.S. Senate.

Prior to that, he served the State of Oregon for 8 years as Governor. He also served in the Oregon House of Representatives, the Oregon Senate, and also served as Oregon Secretary of State, and had a distinguished career in the Navy, including the time during World War II.

MARK HATFIELD is a unique Senator, a courageous individual, independent, sometimes stubborn, a person with strong personal religious convictions, a person whom I know people on both sides of the aisle, Democrat and Republican, have really grown to know, to love, and respect. His years of service as the Appropriations chairman and also ranking member on the Appropriations Committee have been outstanding. He has an outstanding rapport with my colleague, Senator BYRD. To see the two of them work in tandem, and work so well, has certainly been a role model for all of us.

He also, as I think some of my colleagues know, is a historian, a lover and collector of items in relation to Abraham Lincoln. He is a person who has made invaluable contributions to this body and to our country. Certainly

his expertise, his guidance, his friendship will certainly be missed by all. My best wishes to MARK HATFIELD and his lovely wife Antoinette. And my thanks on behalf of all of our colleagues. We thank him, and both of them, for their service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SAM NUNN

Mr. NICKLES. Also, Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge another retiring colleague, the Senator from Georgia, Senator SAM NUNN. SAM NUNN was elected to the Senate 24 years ago. He is an outstanding Senator.

Many people know Senator NUNN as a leader of the Armed Services Committee. He has served as chairman and has served as ranking member. He has served in that capacity with distinction. He is a well-known expert in foreign policy and national defense matters.

What some people might not know about Senator NUNN is he also has a great deal of talent in other areas. He is one of the best golfers I have known, a very competitive individual.

But maybe my fondest memory of Senator NUNN will be when he made the speech at the national prayer breakfast just last year. I remember when he was talking about his accomplishments, he said, well, a lot of people would ask him about his accomplishments for his years of service, what bills did he pass, what legislative accomplishment was his real high water mark? He said the fact that he maintained a very strong relationship with his wife Colleen and maintained that relationship with his wife and his family. I thought that was a very inspirational comment.

I have really grown to know and respect Senator NUNN for his work, not only on Armed Services, but also for his work on the permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, for his work that he has done in small business. He has been a colleague that, again, people on both sides of the aisle in the U.S. Senate have really grown to know and respect. Certainly we will miss Senator NUNN. We thank him for his many years of service, 24 years of outstanding service, in the U.S. Senate.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BILL COHEN

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, also, I would like to comment on another retiring colleague from the State of Maine, Senator BILL COHEN. BILL COHEN served 6 years in the U.S. House of Representatives during a very turbulent time, a time many people called "Watergate." He served, I believe, on the Judiciary Committee. I remember being an interested observer in Oklahoma and watching the House committee and Senator COHEN's involvement. That was back in 1973 and 1974. Senator COHEN was elected to the House in 1972.

In 1978, he was elected to the U.S. Senate. So he has served 18 years in the

Senate. In addition to being an outstanding Senator on Armed Services and also on the Intelligence Committee, he is an author, he is a poet, he is a person who is respected on both sides of the aisle. He is a person who all in the Senate, Democrat and Republican, have certainly come to enjoy, to respect. He will certainly be missed in the Senate. We wish Senator BILL COHEN all the best and thank him for his years of service to our country, both in the House and in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, also, I would like to make a couple comments about our colleague, Senator SIMPSON from Wyoming, Senator SIMPSON, from Cody, WY, and his lovely wife Ann. What a wonderful example of a loving couple, who have been a shining example for so many people. He is an outstanding representative for the State of Wyoming. He represents the State of Wyoming, is independent, kind of hard-nosed, funny, humorous, maybe the most humorous Senator that we have.

He is a colleague whom I have had the pleasure over the last few years to serve with on the Finance Committee. He is a courageous Senator, a Senator who is willing to take on issues that a lot of people would rather stay away from. He talks about problems in spending and Social Security. Not too many people want to talk about that. He talks about the problems and the need to try to rein in growing and exploding entitlement programs, a Senator who is willing to lead and stand up, a Senator who served Bob Dole and, frankly, the entire Senate so well, served as assistant majority leader for 10 years, a Senator who is willing to take on tough issues, like immigration. I am pleased that in the next day or two we will be passing immigration reform. It is largely because of the leadership of ALAN SIMPSON.

So he has a lasting legislative legacy in passing responsible legislation, like immigration reform, that most of us realize is very complicated, not a fun-type issue, yet Senator SIMPSON has shown the courage and the willingness, tenacity, and perseverance to make sure that we did the right thing.

So I compliment Senator SIMPSON for his 18 years of service in the U.S. Senate. He has been an outstanding Senator. We certainly wish Senator ALAN SIMPSON and his wife Ann all the best.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, also, I would like to make a couple comments about my friend and neighbor, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM from Kansas. Senator KASSEBAUM will be leaving the Senate after 18 years of outstanding service. Senator KASSEBAUM is a Senator who is well respected by Democrats and Republicans and is the chair-

man of the Labor and Human Resources Committee—I might say, a very productive chairman.

She has passed a lot of legislation through her leadership. She has been able to work in a bipartisan fashion to get things done. She is a commonsense fiscal conservative who is willing to take on some of the tough issues, who is independent, who is willing to get things done for the good of our country, and certainly the good of her State.

Senator KASSEBAUM is certainly, in my opinion, one of the most decent Senators who has ever served in this body. She will certainly be missed. I thank her for her dedication to Kansas, and also to our country as well.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, likewise, I would like to say thank you to Senator HOWELL HEFLIN, commonly known as "the judge." He has served 18 years in the Senate. He was a former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, a Senator with a southern drawl, a Senator who served on the Agriculture Committee and the Judiciary Committee, a Senator who has always done his homework.

He knows the Constitution probably as well as anyone serving in this body. He is a Senator who served in World War II as a marine. He is a Senator who is well liked by, I think, all, who has made a significant sacrifice, in my opinion, by serving in this body, and certainly that has been to the benefit of the people of Alabama and the benefit of our entire country.

So I wish Senator HEFLIN all the best and his lovely wife Mike. We have enjoyed their service. We wish them all the best as they return to the State of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HANK BROWN

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, likewise, I would like to acknowledge my friend and colleague, HANK BROWN, who will be leaving the Senate after one term. I truly say—all the other colleagues I have alluded to have served 18 years or more in the Senate—I hate to see HANK BROWN leave because he is leaving after 6 years in the Senate.

He has made such a valuable contribution to this body. I have had the pleasure of serving with HANK BROWN on the Budget Committee. He has just been a real asset, not only to the budgeteers, but he is a person who does his homework, he is a person who digs into the numbers, a person who is innovative, very intelligent—very bright—who finds a better way to do something, who is always working on trying to do something good for our country, to save some money, a fiscal conservative who is effective, who not only makes speeches—and in my opinion one of the best speakers we have in this